



Denial

file

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

3601 W. Washington • Yakima, Washington 98903-1164 • (509) 575-2800

June 2, 1994

John and Paul Smasne
4390 Factory Road
Sunnyside WA 98944-9754

Re: Emergency Drought Application No. G4-31929

On January 1, 1994, John and Paul Smasne submitted an application to appropriate public ground waters of the state. The application was accepted and given application No. G4-31929. The application requested 1000 gallons per minute (gpm), 420 acre-feet per year, for supplemental irrigation of 140 acres and frost control. This application is for lands in addition to those authorized under Ground Water Certificate No. G4-24914C. On May 17, 1994, in response to the Governor's declaration of drought in the Yakima region, the Smasne's requested application No. G4-31929 be given emergency drought status. The department is examining drought requests based on the instantaneous quantity of 7.5 gpm or the amount requested in the application (whichever is less), and 0.8 acre-feet per year. For this application the amounts under consideration are 1000 gpm and 112 acre-feet per year for supplemental irrigation of 140 acres.

The proposed point of withdrawal is a well drilled under Certificate No. G4-24914C, which authorizes 1400 gpm, 761 acre-feet per year for the supplemental irrigation of 140 acres. The well is 1284 feet deep and is cased and sealed to 785 feet below land surface into the Priest Rapids member of the Wanapum Basalt Formation. The area in question is located approximately 6 miles east of the town of Sunnyside, within Section 35, T. 10 N., R. 23 E.W.M.

Records dating back to 1981 show water level declines of 2.5 feet per year in wells completed into the Wanapum Formation in this area; a decline of 32.6 feet in the last 13 years. A primary responsibility of the department is to manage utilization of the public waters of the State within a safe sustainable yield. During periods of drought emergencies, normal investigative reviews conducted by the Department are truncated to accommodate the mandatory 15 days decision deadline. With that constraint it has been determined that current data must be relied upon to reflect effects of past withdrawals on the aquifers. It has further been determined that in those situations where evidence of year to year declines


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in water levels are recorded, that drought emergency permits will not be granted. The Wanapum Aquifer in this vicinity has declined steadily for 13 years of record, therefore the request for additional water from this well under water right application No. G4-31929 Emergency Drought Request, is hereby denied.

You have the right to obtain review of this order. Request for review must be made, within thirty (30) days of receipt of this order, to the Washington Pollution Control Hearings Board, PO Box 40903, Olympia, Washington 98504-0903. Concurrently, a copy of the request must be sent to the Department of Ecology, PO Box 47600, Olympia, Washington 98504-7600. These procedures are consistent with the provisions of Chapter 43.21B RCW and the rules and regulations adopted thereunder.

Sincerely,


Doug Clausing, Section Manager
Water Resources Program

DC:PC:ska
940606.wr4

cc: Yakama Indian Nation
Dale Bambrick
Wendell Hannigan